

Message Text

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ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OES-05 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9697

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 1929

DEPT PLEASE PASS DOT FOR ALLEN TPI-42

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ETRN, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR COOPERATION IN TRANSPORTATION: RAIL (05.03):

RAILWAY TIE DELIVERY

REF: STATE 28622, ALLEN/EMBOFF TELCON OF 9 FEBRUARY

1. EMBOFF 10 FEBRUARY REQUESTED FROM ISHCHENKO ON URGENT BASIS IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION, SUCH AS NUMBER OF BILL OF LADING, FOR PACKAGE OF RAILWAY TIES, AS WELL AS TELEX OF INSTRUCTION TO SOMMA FOR BOOKKEEPING TRANSACTION. EMBOFF ALSO INFORMED ISHCHENKO OF ALLEN/SMIRNOV AGREEMENT TO DELIVER TIES AND HOLD CEREMONY 12 FEBRUARY IN BALTIMORE.

2. LEVTONOV SHORTLY AFTERWARD CONTACTED EMBOFF TO EXPLAIN THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT OBSTACLES TO A CHANGE FROM NYP TO BALTIMORE. THE PROBLEMS INCLUDE:

A) THE CAPTAIN HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED, AND HIS RADIO IS NOW SHUT OFF (EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD ALREADY ANTICIPATED THAT PROBLEM AND HAD REQUESTED MS ALLEN TO HAVE SOMMA CONTACT SHIP'S CAPTAIN. LEVTONOV RESPONDED THAT HE IS UNSURE THAT SHIP'S CAPTAIN WILL RESPOND TO SOMMA REQUEST).

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B) TIES HAVE BEEN SENT FREE OF CHARGE AND WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION TO NYC (NOTE: ONLY DESIGNATION IS CHICAGO ADDRESS); CAPTAIN WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE WITH THEM TO BALTIMORE, AND LOAD-SCHEDULING MAY PREVENT CHANGE.

C) MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE HAS AGREED TO (AND DONE CONSIDERABLE PAPERWORK FOR) SHIPMENT TO CHICAGO FROM NYC, NOT FROM BALTIMORE (LEVTONOV ADDED COMMENT THAT HOPEFULLY INSTRUCTIONAL TELEX WILL GO OUT TO SOMMA TODAY). BUREAUCRATIC CLEARANCES AT MIN MERCHANT MARINE HAVE TAKEN NEARLY A WEEK FOR PREVIOUSLY-AGREED NYC-TO-CHICAGO SHIPMENT; LEVTONOV FEARS THAT PERMISSION FOR CHANGE CANNOT BE FORCED THROUGH MIN MERCHANT MARINE IN TIME.

D) LEVTONOV PRESUMES CUSTOM CLEARANCES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED.

3. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT THESE PROBLEMS WOULD BE EXPLAINED TO DOT AND REQUESTED THAT LEVTONOV INFORM SMIRNOV.

4. COMMENT: LARGE PART OF DIFFICULTY IN THIS ARRANGEMENT APPEARS CONNECTED TO LAND SHIPMENT FROM EAST COAST TO CHICAGO. IF US SIDE COULD TAKE CARE OF THAT ASPECT, THEN INSTRUCTIONS TO CAPTAIN ON CHANGE IN CEREMONY AND DELIVERY TO BALTIMORE COULD BE DONE BY SMIRNOV THROUGH SOMMA. CAPTAIN PRESUMABLY WOULD ACCEPT INSTRUCTIONS OF SOVIETEMBASSY.

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